

EDITED BY		
THOMAS RITCHIE & EDMUND BURKE.		
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IN CONGRESS OF THE U. STATES.

Thirty-First Congress—First Session.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1850.

SENATE.

MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS.

Mr. STEWART presented the petition of Eliza M. Riddell, Ann Wilder, and Mary Smith, asking indemnity for French spoliation prior to 1800; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BELL rose, and after making an explanation of an error which occurred during the last session, in relation to certain action of the Senate upon the papers of John S. Burroughs, asked that such course might be taken as would give to the Committee on Agriculture the report made thereon, and said: The question involved was a legal one altogether, and not a matter of proof in relation to the facts of the case. It was the report of the honorable senator from Vermont, (Mr. UPHAM,) chairman of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims. At a subsequent period of the session, I find, according to the journal, that it was agreed to. The honorable senator, the chairman of that committee, has no objections to its being referred to that committee, as it is a question depending not upon facts, and does not come within the spirit of the rule, but merely a question of law, which I, as the representative of the claimant—who is a revolutionary officer—wish to have an opportunity to be heard upon. I would ask the senator from Vermont to state to the Senate his own recollection of the facts of the case.

Mr. UPHAM. I had the honor of making that report, and of presenting it to the Senate; it was an adverse report, and the honorable senator called upon me, and told me that he would ask the Senate to reconsider the report, when it should come up, that it should be postponed. I told him that I should have no objection whatever in passing it by until a subsequent occasion. It was passed over, and I have no recollection that the question was taken up during the session. It was taken up, not by him or by me, so that I am convinced that it must have been in our absence. I have no objection to the course proposed by the senator from Tennessee.

The papers were accordingly ordered to be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SEWARD presented the petition of J. Sidney Henshaw, late a professor of mathematics in the navy, asking to be allowed the three months' pay granted discharged officers; which, after a word of explanation by Mr. SEWARD, was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. S also presented a memorial of Wm. W. Smith, and other citizens of the United States, asking that provision may be made for obtaining certain important statistical information in connection with the census of 1850; which was referred to the select committee on the census.

Mr. S also presented the memorial of the heirs of Joseph Mussi, asking indemnity for French spoliation prior to 1800; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. GREEN presented the memorial of Marie Mason, widow of Milo Mason, late an officer in the army of the United States, asking to be allowed certain arrears of pay due her late husband, and reimbursement of money expended by him in the public service; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. DOWNS presented the memorial of L. E. L. A. Lawson, daughter and heir of Eleazer W. Ripley, asking the payment of a verdict rendered in favor of her late father in a suit instituted against him by the United States; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. MASON presented the petition of the legal representative of John M. Bart, and the memorial of Nathaniel Wattles, president of the Marine Insurance Company of Alexandria, asking a renewal of the charter of said company; which was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. BALDWIN presented the memorial of Sarah Snow, and the memorial of the heirs of James Hamilton, asking indemnity for French spoliation prior to 1800; which were referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. DICKINSON presented the memorial of the administrator of Wm. Woodworth, patentee of a planing machine, asking the renewal of his patent; which was referred to the Committee on Patents and the Patent Office.

Mr. D also presented the memorial of Jas. Robertson, asking an investigation of certain charges made against him of threatening with violence a member of the United States Senate, and of other offenses; which was referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. ATCHISON presented the memorial of Gustavus A. Parsons, asking compensation for services in raising and organizing the volunteers furnished by the State of Massachusetts, and asking a renewal of the charter of said company; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. STURGEON presented the memorial of Nancy Kirkpatrick, widow of a revolutionary soldier, asking to be allowed a cash pension; which was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Mr. UNDERWOOD presented a petition from certain citizens of Kentucky; which, being short, he said he would read to the Senate. It was as follows:

PETITION FOR PEACE.

To the honorable Senate of the United States:

The undersigned, citizens of Allen county, in the State of Kentucky, deploring the evils of war, and believing that the only way to preserve peace, and to secure the rights of the citizen, is by the timely adoption of wise and feasible measures, respectfully request your honorable body to take such action as you may deem best in favor of the establishment of a Congress of nations, for the accomplishment of this most desirable end.

Do, A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.

The petition was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. DAYTON presented the petition of Francis A. Stockton, a master in the navy, asking the repayment of money expended by him on public account in the port of Southampton, England, while on board the United States ship S. Lawrence; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. D also presented a memorial from the same, asking the repayment of money expended in purchasing supplies for the public service; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

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Mr. DODGE of Iowa presented a petition of citizens of Madison and Polk counties, in that State, asking the establishment of a mail route from Fort Des Moines to Council Bluffs, and a mail route from Winterset, in Iowa, to Athens, Missouri; which was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Mr. SMITH presented a petition of citizens of Bridgeport, Connecticut, asking an appropriation for the purchase of the harbor at that place; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. S also presented the petition of Frances F. Gardner, widow of an officer in the army, who was killed in battle, asking to be allowed a cash pension; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. S also presented the petition of Frances Fowler, widow of an officer in the army who died in service, asking a pension; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion by Mr. MASON,

Ordered, That the petition of Nathaniel Kaykendall, on the file of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

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On motion by Mr. BENTON,

Ordered, That the petition of Thomas Allen, on the file of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Claims.

On motion by Mr. DODGE of Iowa,

Ordered, That the petition of the legal representative of John Rice Jones, on the file of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims.

On motion by Mr. BRIGHT,

Ordered, That the documents on the file of the Senate, relating to the claims of the heirs of the late John Jones, be referred to the Committee on Claims.

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CITY OF WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 9, 1850.

"LIBERTY, THE UNION, AND THE CONSTITUTION."

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Ordered, That the memorial of the delegates of the Creek nation be referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

On motion by Mr. CORWIN,

Ordered, That the memorial of the Administrator of Wm. A. Sloan, on the file of the Senate, be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

RESOLUTIONS OF STATE LEGISLATURES.

Mr. UPHAM presented a report and resolutions adopted by the Legislature of Vermont, recommending the establishment of a bureau of agriculture in the Department of the Interior at Washington; which were referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BELL also presented resolutions passed by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Vermont, expressive of their opinion of the powers conferred on Congress by the constitution of the United States, and requesting the senators and representatives of that State in Congress to resist by all constitutional means the extension of slavery, and to exclude slavery from the District of Columbia, and requesting the representatives of that State to use their exertion for the organization of certain territorial governments, with a proviso excluding involuntary servitude therefrom, except for crime, which Mr. U. moved to have printed for the use of the Senate.

Mr. MANGUM moved that the motion to receive the resolutions be laid upon the table.

Mr. BELL and Mr. UPHAM demanded the yeas and nays upon the motion.

Mr. U expressed his surprise at the objection to receiving resolutions of a sovereign State. It was usual to receive such documents and print them without objection.

Mr. DAWSON remarked that the resolutions presented by the senator had already been printed, and were upon the table of senators.

Mr. UPHAM replied that they had been printed in the other House, and without objection.

Mr. KING. I will state that the practice has been, that whenever resolutions or memorials are presented here, if the Chair has any expectation of any objection on the part of any senator to their reception, for the Chair to ask whether they should be received, or whether they should be laid upon the table, and then to move to lay them upon the table, and order them to be printed.

The yeas and nays upon the motion to lay the motion to receive on the table were then ordered.

Mr. HALE. That question is not debatable—is it?

Mr. PHELPS. Certainly not. I arose simply to say, as it is a question of order, as to the disposition of these memorials, that I think the senator from Alabama, Mr. MASON, is in error. He has been usual to receive all such resolutions, and to order them to be printed.

Mr. MANGUM. Will the senator yield the floor?

Mr. PHELPS. Certainly, with pleasure.

Mr. MANGUM. I will state that the statements of the senator from Alabama do not accord with what was my impression of the settled practice of the last twelve or fourteen years. If that is the view of the honorable senator, I have no objection, and I will withdraw my motion.

Mr. PHELPS. The question is upon the motion to print, there being no objection to the reception of the resolutions.

Mr. YULEE. I desire to say, sir, as the resolutions have been received, as I understand, and as the motion to print has been agreed to, and as the honorable senator has been usual to receive all such resolutions, and to order them to be printed, I have no objection, and I will withdraw my motion.

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